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Death of Army General A. I. Antonov
New Registration Age for Soviet Compulsory Military Training

Gloyston T. Jenkins/
Laidthun J. Hemenway
Col. PL Bowenship

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REPORTER

FORM DS-439 (OCT. 912 ...)

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EXTERNAL - POLITICAL

1. Soviet Foreign Relations. With the departure of KHRUSHCHEV on June 15 for a party-state visit to Rumania, the main fount of Soviet foreign policy pronouncements was transferred temporarily beyond Soviet state borders. Such speeches of Khrushchev's delivered in Rumania thus far have been published in the Soviet press did not disclose any new shifts in Soviet foreign policy, but instead suggested a continued attitude of wait-and-see.

Meanwhile on June 18 First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers Kosygin and Chief of the Soviet Air Force Marshal VERSHININ departed for Italy and Indonesia respectively. These visits in a sense symbolise the USSR's continuing efforts to probe for weak spots and to open new channels of communication with the Western alliance structure on the one hand and to exploit anti-colonial activity among underdeveloped countries on the other.

In Moscow itself, there was a noticeable increase in the arrival of delegations and visitors. Many of these appeared to represent the normal influx of visitors in the summer time. But many also probably represent advance arrivals for the World Disarmament Conference which opens here on July 9.

2. Intra-Bloc Relations. The 80th anniversary of the birth of the deceased Bulgarian Communist Party leader and Comintern stalwart DIMITROV provided an occasion for a speech with strong anti-Chinese ideological overtones, delivered on June 18 by CPSU Presidium member KUUSINEN. This is the first such speech by a CPSU Presidium member which has been published since the 22nd CPSU Congress. It may herald a resumption of major ideological attacks between Moscow and Peiping. It also may have been a form of response to Peiping's evident dissatisfaction with the results of the June 6-7 CEMA meeting. In an editorial on June 18 on Khrushchev's visit to Rumania, Pravda indirectly indicated Peiping's negative attitude toward CEMA developments by discussing these without indicating that they were supported by Peiping, while at the same time the editorial claimed the CPR and other Asian socialist countries support the Warsaw Pact.

3. Laotian Developments. There were sporadic indications in the Soviet press of continuing difficulties in the way of a peaceful settlement in Laos. These appeared mainly in the form of TASS despatches from Peiping reporting statements by Souvanuvong, Kong Le, and others alleging that the US is trying to sabotage the agreement to form a coalition government and calling for vigilance. Some of these statements accused the US of continuing airdrops of men and material into "liberated" territory.

4. Disarmament and Nuclear Tests. What little comment there was on the Geneva Disarmament Conference concentrated on the theme that US actions around the globe and alleged statements by US leaders favoring preventive war demonstrate convincingly that the US does not want disarmament.

There was continuous reporting on opposition from all parts of the world to the current series of US nuclear tests. The destruction of the

second US high altitude nuclear test missile was presented as alarming development, suggesting a lack of adequate technical control over its own testing by the US and the danger of a test missile landing in the wrong place and touching off general war.

5. Algeria. Signs of possible rapprochement between the OAS and Algerian nationalist leaders obviously posed a quandary for Soviet propadanda. Soviet papers reported the Mustafei-Susini agreement with skepticism, questioning whether the OAS would adhere to it, and expressing serious doubts as to the wisdom of permitting the formation of an OAS dominated political party. The Soviet press also jumped to the conclusion that if an amnesty is granted to the OAS in Algeria it will also be granted to OAS elements in France, thus increasing the danger of fascism in France.

6. Berlin/Germany. In addition to Khrushchev's relatively restrained remarks on Berlin during his Roumanian tour, coverage of Germany in the Soviet press this week included comment on Adenauer's visit to Berlin and the subsequent escape incident involving the death of another Vopo. Pravda June 21 characterized the death of Vopo Huhn as murder committed by a West Berlin agent, and linked the crime to "hysterical speeches" by Adenauer and Brandt. However, as in the previous case involving the death of Vopo Corporal Goehring, the Soviet press reaction to this incident was sparse in contrast to the voluminous East German press coverage of it.

The latest in the series of US-Soviet discussions on Berlin was not reported in the Soviet press. However, Pravda selected and summarized Ulbricht's comments on the Berlin negotiations in his speech published in Neues Deutschland June 20.

The bilateral "negotiations" were reportedly praised as having achieved significant areas of agreement by Adzhubei on June 15 in an off-the-record conference with Japanese correspondents. According to one of the correspondents, Adzhubei also attributed the Laotian settlement directly to the June 4, 1961 Vienna meeting between the President and Khrushchev, and spoke in favor of another "Summit meeting" to resolve the Berlin problem.

7. Congo. An air of inability to manipulate events according to Moscow's wishes almost seemed evident in Soviet press comment on the situation in the Congo. An example of this was an Izvestiya article on June 19 which deprecated reports of progress in the Adoula-Tshombe talks and charged UN representative Gardner with supporting Tshombe. The article asserted that Tshombe is only playing for time to gather forces with which he could neutralize any UN forces.

Several reports appeared of rallies for the defense of Gizenga and the formation of new Lumumba Party under the leadership of Gbenye.

8. Visitors. With the departure of Senegalese President Dia, the procession of foreign visitors to Moscow settled down to the usual summer high volume of delegations of Communist functionaries and economic groups.

Celebration of the 80th anniversary of Georgy Dimitrov's birth on June 18 revealed that a large number of foreign CP delegations are in Moscow including the first secretaries of the Canadian, Dutch, Ceylonese, Swedish, and Norwegian parties and politburo members of the Danish (Warner) and Austrian (Muri) Communist Parties.

The Soviet press also continued to report the activities of a Polish parliamentary delegation until they departed. They were soon followed by a Yugoslav parliamentary delegation led by P. Stambolic which arrived June 19.

Economic visits included the following: UAR - Minister of Economics, Kaisunei; Sweden - Minister of Finance, Strang; Brazil - Deputy Director of the Bank of Brazil, Gomez.

US artist and "peace fighter" Rockwell Kent also arrived in Moscow and received heavy press attention and a message of greetings from Khrushchev on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

INTERNAL - POLITICAL

9. Leadership. Khrushchev has remained prominent though absent in Rumania, nothing has been heard of KOZLOV for a second week, and KOSYGIN has departed for Italy, leaving MIKOYAN in apparent command.

Khrushchev left from the Kiev Railway Station for Rumania on June 15, accompanied by CPSU Central Committee Secretary V. V. GRISHIN. All of the other full and candidate members of the CPSU CC Presidium and members of the CC Secretariat were there with the exceptions of Kozlov, POLYANSKY, V. P. MZHAVANADZE, and A. N. SHELEPIN. As Georgian CP First Secretary, Mzhavanadze appears in Moscow only infrequently. On June 16 he opened a meeting in Tbilisi in honor of a decade of Russian poetry in Georgia. CC Secretary A. N. Shelepin turned up on June 18 in Vladivostok at a meeting of fishing industry workers of the Far East.

On June 16, most newspaper photographs of Khrushchev's departure for Rumania showed L. I. BREZHNEV, A. N. Kosygin, and A. I. Mikoyan clustered about him, but Krasnaya Zvezda, Trud, and Sovetskaya Rossiya showed an additional well-wisher, Kliment VOROSHILOV. A western reporter witnessed the mutual embrace of Voroshilov and Khrushchev. Voroshilov, who seems to have regained favor lately, was listed on June 13 as one of the Marshals of the Soviet Union who attended the funeral of General KHRULEV, and on June 15 as a member of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet in attendance at a reception for a delegation from the Polish Seim.

The 80th anniversary of the birth of Georgy DIMITROV was observed at a Bulgarian Embassy reception on June 15 and a ceremony at the House of Columns on June 18.

Mikoyan -- left with a clear field after the departure of the other First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Kosygin, for Italy on June 18 -- made a speech at the Bulgarian Embassy on June 15 and received

the Ghanaian Ambassador on June 18 while another Old Bolshevik, Presidium Member Otto KUUSINEN, delivered a eulogy on Georgy Dimitrov at the House of Columns. Mikoyan also received the Ambassador of Ghana on June 18 and UAR and Swedish delegations on June 20, and was the only Soviet leader present at a Swedish Embassy reception on June 20.

For the second week in succession, the name of Frol Kozlov was omitted from a list of signatories to an obituary. The list appended to the obituary of General of the Army ANTONOV (Pravda, June 20) was headed by the names of Khrushchev, Brezhnev, Kosygin, and Mikoyan, as was that of General Khrulev eight days before. Since Khrushchev and Kosygin signed in absentia, it would have been possible for Kozlov to do so too. Protocol in this respect has varied in the past (Embassy despatch 1115, June 12, 1962). The most plausible assumption is that current protocol called for the inclusion of Presidium members who have formal governmental functions and that the omission of Kozlov, among others, was normal. Although there is speculation about Kozlov's absence, it is without solid fact.

10. More Prosecutions of "Speculators" and "Parasites". Soviet newspapers in Moscow, Leningrad, Minsk, and Kiev have reported the trials of further gangs of "speculators" and "parasites" (Embassy despatch 1135, June 22). In Odessa, B. A. GUL'KO and F. A. FUKS were sentenced to be shot (A-974, June 19). The various cases involve a total of approximately 50 persons, many of whom have names immediately recognizable by Soviet readers as Jewish. An international element is provided by one reference to the Iranian Embassy and another reference to unspecified "foreign embassies" from which gold watches were obtained, as well as by details of how the Leningrad gang obtained foreign goods through merchant seamen in return for foreign currency illegally acquired from tourists in the USSR.

11. Lithuanian "Bourgeois Nationalist" Sentenced To Be Shot. Sovetskaya Litva (June 17) reported the trial of a band of "bourgeois nationalists" who had allegedly collaborated with the Germans during World War II and carried out operations against Communist collaborators after the Soviets took power in Lithuania (Embassy despatch No. 1136, June 22). They were said to have harbored plans for seizing control with Western support. One of the leaders, Yuozas STREIKUS, was sentenced to be shot.

12. A Policeman's Lot Is Not a Happy One! Making the cop on the beat popular is one aspect of the regime's continuing campaign to clear Soviet streets of drunks and hooligans. Beginning with an article on June 9, entitled, "Our Peoples' Militia", Izvestiya, among other papers, has published a lot of material designed to give Soviet police a better press. Inspiration for the campaign may originate with Khrushchev's remarks to the recent XIV Komsomol Congress (WEEKA 17 of April 27). On that occasion, Khrushchev praised the selfless militiamen and defended new legislation designed to enhance the prestige of the police (this legislation provides the death sentence for jeopardizing the life of a policeman -- WEEKA 9, March 2,1962).

Most recently, (Izvestiya, June 18), published a letter from a Chita police officer which airs many familiar complaints. The police officer feels that

many people actually believe the myth that a man becomes a policeman because he is not capable of finding work in another place. The policeman also finds that vicious slander directed against the police is so widespread in the USSR that during a vacation his chance contacts suddenly become quite hostile to him when they learn that he is a policeman. In his letter, the police officer asks the question, "Whatever have the police done to people that is so bad? The man didn't even want to talk to me!" The militiaman concludes by stating his intention to continue serving in his "honorable post." Typically, the published letter is accompanied by a picture of two friendly policemen giving children instruction in traffic rules.

Traffic law enforcement also is highlighted in Nedelya, No. 24, June 10-16. A motorcycle policeman is the cover boy of that issue; an article takes up traffic and pedestrian violations and the role of the friendly traffic cop.

All articles published thus far have had a decidedly defensive tone. Izvestiya, June 12, for example, published a picture of a 16-year old youth receiving his first "passport" (i.e., identity card) from a clean-cut looking MVD officer who is explaining the "responsibilities" that accompany the "passport". The June 12 article deplores the fact that the policeman is still used by parents as a boogeyman to scare small children and is distorted on the screen and stage. Several examples of heroic police action help justify the article's title, "Defender of Everybody and A Friend to Everyone."

13. Former Beria Informer Expelled from Party. Bakinskiy Rabochiy (June 17) disclosed the expulsion of Ivan Yakovlevich MYACHIN, from the Party as a result of his exposure as a former provocateur in the service of BERIA and BAGIROV whose false denunciations had cost the lives of many old comrades in the Adjerbaidzhan CP (Embassy despatch No. 1133, June 21). Myachin was quoted as explaining, "There was a film over my eyes. . . " There was no suggestion that he would be tried on criminal charges.

14. Meeting of Constitutional Commission. Pravda (June 16) reported the meeting on the previous day of the Constitutional Commission previously selected by the Supreme Soviet (Item 9, WEEKA No. 17, April 27). The following subcommissions were formed:

1. General political and theoretical questions;
2. Questions of social and governmental structure;
3. State administration, activities of the Soviets and of social organizations;
4. Economic questions and administration of the national economy;
5. National policy and national-state structure;
6. Science and culture, education, and public health;
7. Foreign policy and international relations;
8. National control and socialist law and order;
9. Editorial subcommission.

MILITARY

1. (U) According to the Soviet press, Army General A. I. ANTONOV, Chief of Staff of the Warsaw Pact Forces and First Deputy Chief of Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces, died suddenly on June 18, 1962. Soviet sources describe his death as a loss of a "great and talented military leader who had accomplished much in strengthening the defensive power of the Soviet State."

2. Biographical sketches in the Soviet press state that General Antonov was born in 1892 and had served in the Soviet Army from 1919 to the time of his death. A graduate of the Frunze Academy and the General Staff Academy, he had served at various times during World War II as Chief of Staff of the Southern, North Caucasus, Transcaucasus, and Black Sea Army Groups. After the war he commanded the Transcaucasus Military District and later became First Deputy Chief of Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces and Chief of Staff of the Warsaw Pact Forces, posts which he held at the time of his death. A member of the Communist Party since 1928, General Antonov was elected and reelected a Deputy of the Supreme Soviet, taking an active part in party and political life to the time of his death.

3. A funeral service for General Antonov held June 21 in Red Square was partially observed by ARMA personnel. Speakers at the ceremony included First Deputy Defense Minister, Marshal GRECHKO, First Deputy Chief of the General Staff, General of Army IVANOV, and Chief of the Polish General Staff, General BORDZILOVSKIY. An estimated 5000 troops participated in marching formations at the funeral ceremony and as guards at the various entrances to Red Square and Revolutionary Square. Political leaders at the service included First Deputy Chairman MIKOYAN and Chairman of the Supreme Soviet BREZHNEV.

4. No announcement has been made as to the appointment of a successor for General Antonov in either of his posts.

New Registration Age for Soviet Compulsory Military Training.

The June 8, 1962 issue of VEDOMOSTI of the Supreme Soviet, USSR, published a decree which changed Article 17, Chapter II of the USSR Law of 1 September 1939 on General Military Obligation. The age of registration for military service has been reduced from 18 to 17 years effective June 1, 1962. Formerly only those students in middle schools were required to register after the 17th birthday, and all others registered after the 18th birthday.

COMMENT: This new decree leaves out any reference to middle schools. It is in accord with the decree issued on February 16, 1962 which abolished pre-induction military training beginning with the 1962/63 school year in middle schools.

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This June decree will probably be followed by a corresponding change in Article 14 of the law regarding the actual call-up age which will correspondingly be reduced one year. No local publicity has been given this change in the registration age.

FOR THE CHARGE d'AFFAIRES AD INTERIM:

Boris H. Klosson

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